NON-PUBLICATION OF TELEPHONE DIRECTORY IN CALCUTTA

2498. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Calcutta Telephones have not brought out updated telephone directory for the past five years;

(b) the year in which the last telephone directory was published;

(c) whether due to non-publication of telephone directory, the subscribers are facing extreme situation with ever rising telephone bills; and

(d) if so, the facts and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The last telephone directory of Calcutta was published in 1989.

(c) No, Sir. Directory Enquiry Service (197) has been made free for subscribers.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply at (c) above.

VISIT OF CHINESE DELEGATION

2499. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high level Chinese delegation recently visited India and had talks with Chairman Telecom Commission on the need for closer co-operation between the two countries in the field of telecom;

(b) if so, the details of the talks held and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to seek the help of China in telecom. sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Discussions were of, general nature. Both sides expressed the need for closer co-operation between the two countries in the field of Telecom.

(c) No, Sir

(d) Does not arise, in view of (c) above.

COMMISSIONING OF NEW TELEPHONE EXCHANGE AT SOLAPUR

2500. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact the tele-com-equipments worth crores of rupees for the new 1200 lines. telephone exchange at Solapur have been lying idle for years together while the building for installation thereof has already been constructed;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for delay in installation and commissioning of the new telephone exchange; and

(c) what is the precise status of the project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Expansion of M.A.X.-I (Strowger) Solapur for 1200 lines (8400—9600) was commissioned in March, 1992.